

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-65 (Canceled)

66 (Previously presented) A diagnostic method for determining the amount of macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) protein in a sample, comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample; and
(b) determining the amount of MIF protein in the sample using an immunoassay with an anti-MIF antibody, wherein the immunoassay is selected from the group consisting of ELISA, immunoprecipitation, immunohistochemistry, and Western analysis, and wherein said MIF protein is the human MIF protein having a molecular weight of approximately 12.5 kDa and having MIF biological activity, and wherein the anti-MIF antibody binds to the MIF protein.

67. (Previously presented) The diagnostic method of Claim 66, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, urine, lymph, saliva, tumor tissue, placental tissue, umbilical cord tissue, amniotic fluid, chorionic villi tissue and combinations thereof.

68 (Previously presented) The diagnostic method of Claim 66, wherein the anti-MIF antibody is monoclonal antibody or antigen-binding fragment or fusion protein thereof.

Claims 69-72 (Canceled)

73. (Previously presented) The diagnostic method of Claim 66, wherein the sample is from a patient that is known or suspected to be suffering from a condition or disease caused by cytokine-mediated toxicity.

74. (Previously presented) The diagnostic method of Claim 73, wherein said condition or disease caused by cytokine-mediated toxicity is selected from the group consisting of endotoxin-induced septic shock, endotoxin-induced toxic shock, shock, inflammatory diseases, graft versus host disease, autoimmune diseases, acute respiratory distress syndrome, granulomatous diseases, chronic infections, transplant rejection, cachexia, asthma, viral infections, parasitic infections, malaria, and bacterial infections.

75. (Previously presented) The diagnostic method of Claim 66, wherein the sample is a member selected from the group consisting of body fluid, tissue and cell lysate.

Claims 76-84 (Canceled).

85. (Currently amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ method for determining an amount of macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) protein in a sample, comprising:

- (a) obtaining a sample; and
- (b) determining the amount of MIF protein in the sample using a direct or an indirect detection technique and wherein the MIF protein is human MIF having a molecular weight of approximately 12.5 kDa, and containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 86. (Canceled)

87. (Currently amended) The ~~diagnostic~~ method of Claim 85, wherein the indirect detection technique involves an immunoassay.

88. (Currently amended) The ~~diagnostic~~ method of Claim 85, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, urine, lymph, saliva, tumor tissue, placental tissue, umbilical cord tissue, amniotic fluid, chorionic villi tissue and combinations thereof.

89. (Currently amended) The ~~diagnostic~~ method of Claim 85, wherein the sample is a member selected from the group consisting of body fluid, tissue and cell lysate.